

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 IO-14 SAM-01 EURE-00

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SS-20 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 SAI-01 DRC-01 /133 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0682

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USCINCEUR

DIA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4275

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PO

SUBJ: COPCON RAIDS HEADQUARTERS PARTIDO DE PROGRESSO: TURNS

UP MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AND LIST OF WEAPONS

REF: (A) LISBON A-76; (B) LISBON 3469; (C) LISBON 4209

SUMMARY: RAID ON LISBONHEADQUARTERS OF RIGHT WING PARTY
TURNS UP MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AND OTHER MATERIEL, INCLUDING
EXTENSIVE LIST OF WEAPONS, WHICH PRESS SPECULATES WERE TO HAVE
BEEN USED AGAINST "DEMOCRATIC" FORCES. NO ONE WAS FOUND AT
PARTY HEADQUARTERS AND NO ARRESTS MADE. GOVERNMENT HAS NOT
BANNED PARTY NOR PRESSED CHARGES AGAINST PARTY LEADERS, MOST
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OF WHOM HAVE GONE INTO HIDING. END SUMMARY.

1. ARMY UNITS UNDER THE COMMAND OF COPCON AND ELEMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE EXTINCTION OF THE PIDE/DGS RAIDED THE LISBON HEADQUARTERS AT 0830 LOCAL, OCTOBER 2 OF THE FAR RIGHT PARTIDO DE PROGRESSO, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE MOVIMENTO FEDERALISTA PORTUGUES (SEE REF A AND B FOR BACKGROUND ON THE PARTY). A REGIONAL BRANCH OF THE PP WAS ALSO OCCUPIED AT THE SAME TIME. NO OFFICIAL EXPLANATION HAS BEEN FURNISHED REGARDING THE REASONS FOR THE RAID, BUT SPECULATION IS THAT THE AUTHORITIES HAD STRONG SUSPICIONS THAT THE PARTY WAS LINKED WITH AN ALLAGED CONSPIRACY TO ASSASSINATE THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER HIGH PERSONALITIES (REF C), OR AT LEAST WITH PREPARING THE SEPT 28 PRO-SPINOLA RALLY WHICH MANY BELIEVE WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SCENE OF RIGHTIST-INSPIRED VIOLENCE.

2. NO ONE WAS IN THE PP HEADQUARTERS AT TIME OF THE RAID AND ALTHOUGH EVIDENTLY MUCH OF THE PARTY'S MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENTATION HAD BEEN REMOVED OR DESTROYED BY FIRE AND SULPHURIC ACID BEFORE COPCON FORCES ARRIVED, THE FOLLOWING WAS ENCOUNTERED: METAL STAVES AND CLUBS; MANY MOLOTOV COCKTAILS FILLED AND READY TO USE; MEGAPHONES AND LOUDSPEAKERS; PROTECTIVE HELMETS; MAPS; MUCH PROPAGANDA REGARDING THE PARTY AND ITS OPPONENTS; SLEEPING BAGS AND TENTS; HUNDREDS OF CARDS WITH THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PARTY AFFILIATES AND SYMPATHIZERS; LETTERS IN CODE; AND A MODERN ITT TELEX AS WELL AS PHOTOCOPIERS AND PRINTING PRESSES.

3. THE LOCAL PRESS IS GIVING A GREAT DEAL OF EMPHASIS TO A DOCUMENT ALLEGEDLY FOUND DURING THE SEARCH OF THE THREE FLOORS OF THE BUILDING OCCUPIED BY THE PP WHICH LISTS THE FOLLOWING WEAPONS: 200 MACHINE PISTOLS TYPE "FBP"; 100,000 9MM BULLETS; 50 GRENADE LAUNCHERS; 3,000 HAND GRENADES; 1,000 INCENDIARY GRENADES AND ANOTHER 1,000 EXPLOSIVE TYPE; 20 RADIOS TYPE "RACAL TR 28"; 100 "AVPI" RADIOS; 100 LIGHT MACHINE GUNS; 1 MILLION BULLETS OF DIVERSE CALIBRE; 50 MORTERS OF 60 CALIBRE, WITH 5,000 SHELLS; 2,000 "G-3" RIFLES AND 500,000 7.62MM BULLETS; HOLSTERS FOR 2,000 PERSONS; 100 "WALTHER" AND 100 "MAUSER" PISTOLS. NONE OF THIS MATERIEL WAS FOUND ON THE PREMISES AND IT IS CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT KNOWN WHETHER THIS IS A LIST OF WEAPONS WHICH THE PP SOUGHT TO BUY, A LIST OF WEAPONS ALREADY PURCHASED AND RECEIVED, OR A BOGUS LIST. A ROOM WHICH COULD HAVE SERVED AS A SECRET ARSENAL FOR SOME OF THIS MATERIEL WAS LOCATED BEHIND A FALSE WALL ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, WHICH SPECULATES THAT THESE AND OTHER WEAPONS MIGHT HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO THE COUNTRY IN THE ALGARVE ILLEGALLY FROM SPAIN.

4. ALSO FOUND ON THE PREMISES, SOAKING IN SULPHURIC ACID, WAS A LARGE QUANTITY OF FLYERS WITH CHEERS WHICH SUPPOSEDLY WOULD HAVE BEEN CHANTED IN FAVOR OF SPINOLA, THE GNR, FIRMNESS, AND FREE ELECTIONS AT THE SPINOLA RALLY SEPTEMBER 28.

5. COMMENT: THE MATERIEL FOUND AT THE PP HEADQUARTERS HIGHLY COMPROMISES THE PP AND WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE LEFT TO ARGUE THAT THE RIGHT, ABOUT WHOSE PROVOCATIVE MANEUVERS THE PCP HAS BEEN WARNING THE PEOPLE FOR WEEKS, WAS REALLY PLANNING TO USE VIOLENCE AT THE SPINOLA RALLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO PROVOKE A RIGHTIST MILITARY COUP TO RESTORE ORDER. NO WEAPONS WERE IN FACT FOUND ON THE PP PREMISES, AND THE LIST OF ARMS SUPPOSEDLY DISCOVERED MAY HAVE BEEN ONLY A "DREAM SHEET" OF THINGS THE PARTY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE OBTAINED. NEVERTHELESS THE LEFTIST PRESS IS OBSCURING THE FACT THAT ONLY A LIST AND NOT THE ACTUAL WEAPONS WERE FOUND IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THEIR CASE THAT THE RIGHT IS DANGEROUS, WAS ABOUT TO CAUSE BLOODSHED, AND SHOULD BE SUPPRESSED.

6. WE DO NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PARTIDO DE PROGRESSO MIGHT HAVE OBTAINED THE WEAPONS ON THE LIST AND THAT THEY WOULD HAVE USED THEM AGAINST THEIR LEFTIST OPPONENTS. FROM WHAT WE KNOW OF THE PP'S LEADERS THEY ARE COMMITTED ANTI-COMMUNISTS WHO SINCERELY BELIEVED THAT THE PCP AND PARTIES TO THE LEFT OF IT ARE TAKING CONTROL OF PORTUGAL, AND MUST BE STOPPED. AN EMBOFF TALKED WITH TWO PP LEADERS SEPTEMBER 30 WHO MENTIONED AT THAT TIME THAT THEY HAD BURNED THEIR MOST COMPROMISING FILES, EXPECTED TO BE ARRESTED, AND THUS WERE LEAVING LISBON. IN THE FOLLOWING TWO DAYS BEFORE COPCON RAIDED THEIR HEADQUARTERS THE PP HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME TO REMOVE ANY WEAPONS THEY MIGHT

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HAVE HAD ON THE PREMISES, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO DATA TO SUGGEST SUCH WEAPONS WERE EVER THERE.

7. WE ALSO HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO LINK THE PP WITH THE MOVIMENTO DE ACCAO PORTUGUESA (MAP) WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN PLOTTING TO ASSASSINATE THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHERS. THE TWO PP LEADERS MENTIONED ABOVE DENIED ANY COMPLICITY WITHMAP, BUT DID KNOW OF IT AND ITS PLANS. ONE OF THE PP LEADERS (MARCUS DE NORONHA, A CLOSE RELATIVE OF MARCUS SOARES DE ALBERGARIA DE NORONHA DA COSTA, A MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL COUNCIL OF THE KING OF BULGARIA IN EXILE IN MADRID) PROVIDED THE NAMES OF TWO PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MAP PLOT; ONE, RUI ALVIM, WHOSE HOUSE WAS TO HAVE BEEN USED TO STAGE THE ASSASSINATION, AND ANOTHER MYSTERIOUS PERSON ABOUT WHOM NORONHA WAS LESS

SPECIFIC.

8. AS FAR AS WE KNOW THE PP HAS NOT BEEN DECLARED ILLEGAL
NOR ARE ARREST WARRANTS OUTSTANDING FOR ANY OF ITS LEADERS.
SCOTT

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